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We claim:

1. A liquid bleaching composition having a pH between 6 and 7 comprising:

(a) an organic substance which forms a complex with a transition metal for bleaching a substrate with atmospheric oxygen, the bleaching composition upon addition to an aqueous medium providing an aqueous bleaching medium substantially devoid of a peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or peroxy-generating bleach system;

(b) a pH changing means; and,

(c) the balance carriers and adjunct ingredients to 100 wt/wt % of the total bleaching composition,

wherein upon dilution of the liquid bleaching composition with water the pH of the liquid bleaching composition enters the range pH 7.5 to pH 9.0.

2. A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein upon dilution of the liquid bleaching composition with water the pH of the liquid bleaching composition reaches at least pH 8.0.

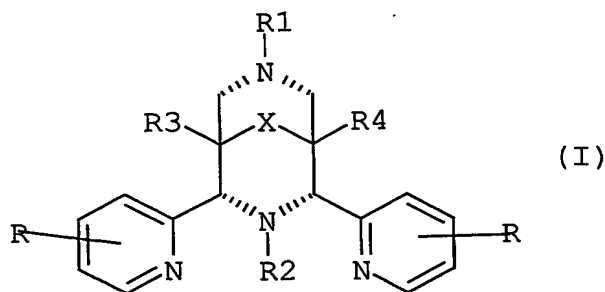
3. A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the pH changing means is provided by a borax sorbitol pH jump composition.

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4. A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 3, wherein the liquid bleaching composition comprises at least 2 % wt/wt of sorbitol and at least 1 wt/wt % borax.

5. A liquid bleaching composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the organic substance is of formula (I):



wherein each R is independently selected from: hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, hydroxyl, C1-C4-alkylo-, -NH-CO-H, -NH-CO-C1-C4-alkyl, -NH₂, -NH-C1-C4-alkyl, and C1-C4-alkyl;

R1 and R2 are independently selected from:

C1-C4-alkyl,

C6-C10-aryl, and,

a group containing a heteroatom capable of coordinating to a transition metal, wherein at least one of R1 and R2 is the group containing the heteroatom;

R3 and R4 are independently selected from hydrogen, C1-C8 alkyl, C1-C8-alkyl-O-C1-C8-alkyl, C1-C8-alkyl-O-C6-C10-aryl, C6-C10-aryl, C1-C8-hydroxyalkyl, and -(CH₂)_nC(O)OR₅ ..

wherein R₅ is independently selected from: hydrogen, C1-C4-alkyl, n is from 0 to 4, and mixtures thereof; and,

X is selected from C=O, -[C(R₆)₂]_y- wherein Y is from 0 to 3 each R₆ is independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxyl, C1-C4-alkoxy and C1-C4-alkyl.

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6. A liquid bleaching composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the organic substance 5,12-dimethyl-1,5,8,12-tetraaza-bicyclo[6.6.2]hexadecane.

7. A method of bleaching a textile comprising the steps of:

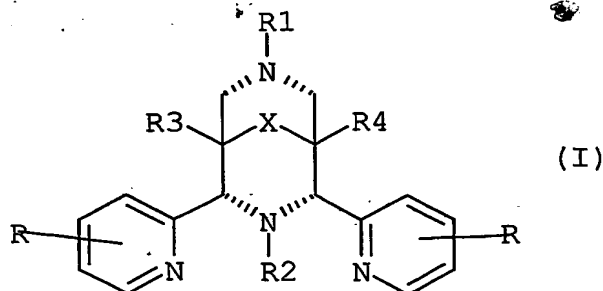
(i) diluting from 0.5 to 20 g of a concentrated liquid bleaching composition with 1 litre of water, the concentrated liquid bleaching composition having a pH in the range 6 to 7, the liquid bleaching comprising an organic substance which forms a complex with a transition metal for bleaching a substrate with atmospheric oxygen, the bleaching composition upon addition to an aqueous medium providing an aqueous bleaching medium substantially devoid of a peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or peroxy-generating bleach, the dilution providing an aqueous liquid bleaching composition having a pH in the range from 7.5 to pH 9.0;

(iv) treating a textile with the aqueous liquid bleaching composition; and,

(v) rinsing the textile with water; and,

(iv) drying the textile.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the organic substance is of formula (I):



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wherein each R is independently selected from: hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, hydroxyl, C1-C4-alkylo-, -NH-CO-H, -NH-CO-C1-C4-alkyl, -NH₂, -NH-C1-C4-alkyl, and C1-C4-alkyl;

R1 and R2 are independently selected from:

C1-C4-alkyl,

C6-C10-aryl, and,

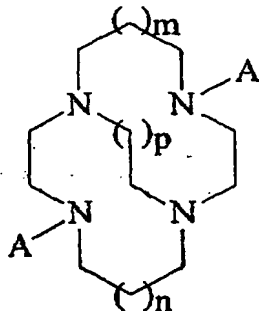
a group containing a heteroatom capable of coordinating to a transition metal, wherein at least one of R1 and R2 is the group containing the heteroatom;

R3 and R4 are independently selected from hydrogen, C1-C8 alkyl, C1-C8-alkyl-O-C1-C8-alkyl, C1-C8-alkyl-O-C6-C10-aryl, C6-C10-aryl, C1-C8-hydroxyalkyl, and $-(CH_2)_n C(O)OR_5$

wherein R5 is independently selected from: hydrogen, C1-C4-alkyl, n is from 0 to 4, and mixtures thereof; and,

X is selected from C=O, $-[C(R_6)_2]_Y-$ wherein Y is from 0 to 3 each R6 is independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxyl, C1-C4-alkoxy and C1-C4-alkyl.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein the organic substance is of formula:



wherein m and n are 0 or integers from 1 to 2, p is an integer from 1 to 6, preferably m and n are both 0 or both 1

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(preferably both 1), or m is 0 and n is at least 1; and p is 1; and A is a nonhydrogen moiety preferably having no aromatic content; more particularly each A can vary independently and is preferably selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, C5-C20 alkyl, and one, but not both, of the A moieties is benzyl, and combinations thereof.

10. A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 9, wherein the organic substance 5,12-dimethyl-1,5,8,12-tetraaza-bicyclo[6.6.2]hexadecane.

AMENDED CLAIMS

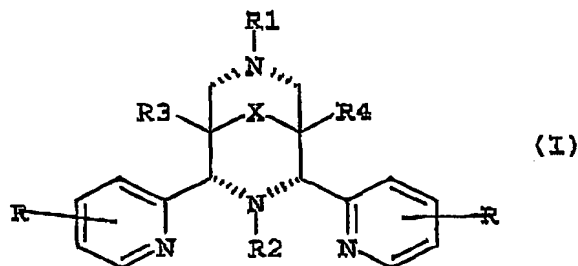
[Received by the International Bureau on 17 November 2004 (17.11.2004);
original claims 1-10 replaced by amended claims 1-6 (4 pages)]

We claim:

1. A liquid bleaching composition having a pH between 6 and 7 comprising:

(a) an organic substance which forms a complex with a transition metal for bleaching a substrate with atmospheric oxygen, the bleaching composition upon addition to an aqueous medium providing an aqueous bleaching medium substantially devoid of a peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or peroxy-generating bleach system, wherein the organic substance is selected from the group consisting of:

an organic substance of formula (I):



wherein each R is independently selected from: hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, hydroxyl, C1-C4-alkyl-, -NH-CO-H, -NH-CO-C1-C4-alkyl, -NH2, -NH-C1-C4-alkyl, and C1-C4-alkyl;

R1 and R2 are independently selected from:

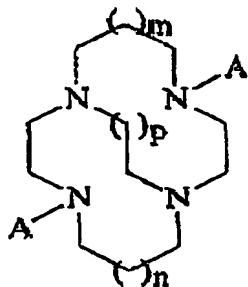
C1-C4-alkyl,

C6-C10-aryl, and,

a group containing a heteroatom capable of coordinating to a transition metal, wherein at least one of R1 and R2 is the group containing the heteroatom;

R3 and R4 are independently selected from hydrogen, C1-C8 alkyl, C1-C8-alkyl-O-C1-C8-alkyl, C1-C8-alkyl-O-C6-C10-aryl, C6-C10-aryl, C1-C8-hydroxyalkyl, and $-(CH_2)_nC(O)OR_5$ wherein R5 is independently selected from: hydrogen, C1-C4-alkyl, n is from 0 to 4, and mixtures thereof; and, X is selected from C=O, $-[C(R_6)]_Y-$ wherein Y is from 0 to 3 each R6 is independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxyl, C1-C4-alkoxy and C1-C4-alkyl, and

an organic substance of formula:



wherein m and n are 0 or integers from 1 to 2, p is an integer from 1 to 6, preferably m and n are both 0 or both 1 (preferably both 1), or m is 0 and n is at least 1; and p is 1; and A is a nonhydrogen moiety preferably having no aromatic content; more particularly each A can vary independently and is preferably selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, C5-C20 alkyl, and one, but not both, of the A moieties is benzyl, and combinations thereof;

(b) a pH changing means; and,

(c) the balance carriers and adjunct ingredients to 100 wt/wt % of the total bleaching composition,

wherein upon dilution of the liquid bleaching composition with water the pH of the liquid bleaching composition enters the range pH 7.5 to pH 9.0.

2. A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein upon dilution of the liquid bleaching composition with water the pH of the liquid bleaching composition reaches at least pH 8.0.

3. A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the pH changing means is provided by a borax sorbitol pH jump composition.

4. A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 3, wherein the liquid bleaching composition comprises at least 2 % wt/wt of sorbitol and at least 1 wt/wt % borax.

5. A liquid bleaching composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the organic substance 5,12-dimethyl-1,5,8,12-tetraaza-bicyclo[6.6.2]hexadecane.

6. A method of bleaching a textile comprising the steps of:

(i) diluting from 0.5 to 20 g of a concentrated liquid bleaching composition, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, with 1 litre of water, the concentrated liquid bleaching composition having a pH in the range 6 to 7, the liquid bleaching comprising an organic substance which forms a

complex with a transition metal for bleaching a substrate with atmospheric oxygen, the bleaching composition upon addition to an aqueous medium providing an aqueous bleaching medium substantially devoid of a peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or peroxy-generating bleach, the dilution providing an aqueous liquid bleaching composition having a pH in the range from 7.5 to pH 9.0;

- (ii) treating a textile with the aqueous liquid bleaching composition; and,
- (iii) rinsing the textile with water; and,
- (iv) drying the textile.

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